

Message Text

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P R 121437Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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UNCLAS BEIRUT 6020

USIA FOR IOP/M, IPS, IBS, INA

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

1. SUMMARY. BEIRUT DAILIES CONTINUE TO PREVIEW SALZBURG SUMMIT. INDEPENDENT "AN-NAHAR" SAYS SADAT WISHES FORD TO ACT NOT IN ROLE OF MEDIATOR BUT AS SEPARATE PARTY IN SETTLEMENT ABLE TO EXERCISE PRESSURE ON ISRAEL. PRO-CAIRO "AL YOUM" LISTS FACTORS WHICH IT SAYS SHOULD INDUCE U.S. TO REASSESS ITS POLICY IN MANNER WHICH WILL REMOVE ZIONIST DOMINANCE OVER WASHINGTON. PRO-CAIRO "AL-ANWAR" SEES PURPOSE OF PRESENT SADAT TOUR AS REMOVAL OF MARGINAL DISPUTES WEAKENING ARAB POSITION. END SUMMARY.

2. MICHEL ABU JAWDEH, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN-NAHAR" WRITES: "FEELING IS THAT PRESIDENT SADAT HAS DECIDED TO EXPOSE AMERICAN ATTITUDE IF HE FINDS AS RESULT OF HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD THAT U.S. WILL DO NOTHING MORE THAN IT DID DURING KISSINGER'S MISSION. SADAT DECLARATION THAT ALL CARDS ARE IN HANDS OF U.S. IS NOT INTENDED TO MINIMIZE SOVIET ROLE. RATHER, IT IS INTENDED TO PLACE ALL RESPONSIBILITY ON U.S. AND TO MAKE AMERICAN PRESIDENT FEEL

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BEFORE ANTICIPATED MEETING THAT HE IS NOT WANTED AS MERE

MEDIATOR BUT AS PARTY SEPARATE FROM ISRAEL AND EXERCISING
PRESSURE ON ISRAEL."

3. PRO-CAIRO "AL YOUM": "FACTORS WHICH WE DO NOT THINK
PRESIDENT FORD WILL FORGET BEFORE GOING TO SALZBURG ARE:
ISRAEL'S 1973 MILITARY COLLAPSE THAT MADE IT NO LONGER
FIT TO PLAY ROLE OF 'POLICEMAN' PROTECTING AMERICA'S
INTERESTS; EUROPEAN (PARTICULARLY FRANCE, GERMANY AND BRITAIN)
TREND TO BEFRIEND ARABS; PREPARATION OF ARAB FORCES TO
REIMPOSE OIL EMBARGO; SADAT'S TOUR IN ARAB STATES;...
ANC COLLAPSE OF U.S. ITSELF IN VIETNAM. ALL THESE ARE
SIGNS ON ROAD TO SALZBURG WHICH SHOULD INDUCE FORD TO
REASSESS AMERICAN POLICY ON PROPER BASES INSTEAD OF
KEEPING ZIONISM DOMINANT IN WAY THAT AFFLICTED WASHINGTON
WITH DISABILITY AND WEAKNESS."

4. PRO-CAIRO "AL-ANWAR": "SADAT'S TOUR, WHICH STARTS
TODAY, SHOULD CONSOLIDATE ARAB-ASIAN FRONT AND PLACE
IT IN HIGHEST LEVEL OF READINESS. IT IS MAIN FRONT IN
BATTLE. EVERY DEFECT IN IT IS LIABLE TO WEAKEN ARAB
POSITION IN ARENAS OF WAR AND PEACE. HENCE, ONE OF MAIN
GOALS OF TOUR IS TO SETTLE MARGINAL DISPUTES THAT MAY
EXIST."
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